

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05
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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: MINISTER S.S. NXUMALO URGES MASSIVE AID
EFFORTS IN SWAZILAND

1. SUMMARY. IN CONVERSATION DECEMBER 17 WITH USG
REPRESENTATIVES, MINISTER S.S. NXUMALO URGED SWAZILAND'S
FRIENDS TO RECOGNIZE THAT SOUTHERN AFRICA HAS ENTERED
NEW ERA IN WHICH "TOKEN" ASSISTANCE FALLING SHORT OF
SWAZILAND'S NEEDS, ESPECIALLY IN ITS POLITICAL STRUGGLE
WITH MOZAMBIQUE. HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR UNHAPPINESS
AT USG REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN FINANCING THIRD SUGAR
MILL PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

2. AT DECEMBER 17 PEACE CORPS RECEPTION HONORING VISITING
DIRECTOR DELLENBACK, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, MINES AND
TOURISM S.S. NXUMALO GAVE CANDID EXPOSITION OF HIS
VIEWS ON MAJOR THREAT TO SWAZILAND AND HIS RECOMMENDATION
FOR MEETING IT. NXUMALO TOLD DELLENBACK, CHARGE AND
AID/OSARAC DIRECTOR KEAN THAT CHIEF THREAT TO SWAZILAND'S
STABILITY LIES IN SUBVERSION FROM MOZAMBIQUE. AS LONG
AS EASTERN REGION OF COUNTRY REMAINS WITHOUT SATISFACTORY
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INFRASTRUCTURE, POPULATION WILL BE RECEPTIVE TO MACHEL'S
RHETORIC. HE CITED AS EXAMPLES POOR ROADS AND
INADEQUATE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM; NOT UNUSUAL
TO SEE WOMEN CARRYING WATER FOR THREE MILES FOR
COOKING PURPOSES IN THAT AREA, HE SAID. WHEN KEAN
MENTIONED USG \$9 MILLION PARTICIPATION IN COUNTRY-

WIDE RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, NXUMALO SAID EFFORTS BY
USG AND OTHER DONORS WOULD HAVE TO BE MUCH MORE MASSIVE
IN NEW ERA IN WHICH SOUTHERN AFRICA FINDS ITSELF. HE
CHARACTERIZED CURRENT DONOR EFFORTS AS "TOKENISM" AND
SAID THAT UNTIL RECENTLY, WHEN SWAZILAND COULD BE
TREATED ALMOST "IN ISOLATION" AND NOT AS PART OF
TUMULTUOUS SOUTHERN AFRICA, SUCH EFFORTS WERE APPROPRIATE
AND PRAISEWORTHY. HOWEVER, THEY NOW FALL FAR SHORT OF
WHAT IS REQUIRED, HE SAID.

3. NXUMALO SAID THAT, BECAUSE OF HIS OLD FRIENDSHIPS
WITH LEADING MOZAMBICAN PERSONALITIES, HE IS ADMITTED
TO RELATIVELY INNER COUNCILS THERE AT WHICH POLITICAL
MATTERS ARE DISCUSSED FRANKLY. HE ADDED THAT OF ALL THE
PROJECTS HE HAS MENTIONED TO MOZAMBICAN LEADERS, THE
SUGAR MILL PROJECT (INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE BENEFITS
ARISING FROM IT) IS THE ONE THAT THEY CONSIDER GREATEST
THREAT TO MOZAMBIQUE'S RELATIONS WITH OWN PEOPLE.
NXUMALO SAID, ONLY HALF JOKINGLY, THAT IMPROVEMENTS
FOLLOWING FROM THIRD SUGAR MILL PROJECT COULD LEAD TO SUCH
DISPARITY BETWEEN LIVING STANDARDS IN SWAZILAND AND
MOZAMBIQUE THAT LETTER WOULD HAVE TO "BUILD A WALL"
TO KEEP ITS PEOPLE FROM LEAVING THEIR COUNTRY.

4. ON SUBJECT OF RELATIONS WITH DONORS, NXUMALO SAID
THEY FREQUENTLY FAIL TO PUT ALL CARDS ON TABLE AS TO
WHAT THEY ARE ABLE AND UNABLE TO FINANCE. HE DESCRIBED
RECEPTION GIVEN TO HIM ON RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT
AS "ENCOURAGING" AND SAID IT WAS ONLY BACK IN
MBABANE THAT HE RECEIVED USG'S LETTER, THROUGH
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CHARGE, SPELLING OUT OBSTACLES TO USG PARTICIPATION
IN THIRD SUGAR MILL PROJECT. HE OBJECTED BOTH TO THE
APPARENT REVERSAL OF US ATTITUDE AND TO INSISTENCE
THAT AMERICAN PRIVATE PARTICIPATION BE AT LEAST 25
PERCENT BEFORE USG WOULD BECOME INVOLVED. (FYI,
LETTER MAKES NO REFERENCE TO PERCENTAGE FIGURES.)
HE JUSTIFIED PROJECT ON ECONOMIC GROUND THAT DIRECT
AND INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT WOULD AMOUNT TO 25,000 PEOPLE,
FIGURE HE SAID CAREFULLY CALCULATED ON BASIS OF
EXPERIENCE IN COUNTRY'S OTHER TWO SUGAR AREAS.

5. NXUMALO ALSO CRITICIZED GOS FOR FAILING TO KEEP ITS
PRIORITIES STRAIGHT. LOOKING AROUND BANQUET ROOM
IN WHICH RECEPTION WAS BEING HELD, HE SAID IT NOT
UNUSUAL FOR GOS TO SPEND THOUSAND RAND FOR SINGLE
OFFICIAL FUNCTION THERE -- MONEY HE SAID WOULD COVER
TEACHER'S SALARY FOR THREE MONTHS. HE REGRETTED THAT
GOS NOT FOCUSSED ON PRIMARY NEEDS MUCH BETTER THAN

DONORS WERE.

6. AT END OF NEAR-MONOLOGUE, NXUMALO REEMPHASIZED
NEED TO ACT, BOTH MASSIVELY AND SOON, TO IMPROVE
CONDITIONS FOR POPULATION IN EASTERN SWAZILAND.
HIS PARTING WORDS WERE: "I'M NOT THAT CONCERNED THAT
IT BE THE SUGAR MILL PROJECT, BUT IT SHOULD BE SOMETHING."

7. CHARGE AND OSARAC DIRECTOR KEAN PLAN VISIT EASTERN
REGION WITHIN NEXT WEEK OR SO. POST'S VIEWS WILL FOLLOW
SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE CONCERNING IMPLICATIONS
THAT NXUMALO'S OBSERVATIONS MAY HAVE ON PROPOSALS FOR
USG ASSISTANCE.
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